

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical retractor, comprising:

a handle having a longitudinal axis and proximal and distal ends;

a first coupling mechanism adjacent the proximal end of the handle, wherein the first coupling mechanism comprises a ~~rotatable~~ knob having a bore, the knob being rotatable with respect to the handle; and

a blade member having a proximal end and a distal end,

wherein the blade member comprises a coupling element, and the coupling element is configured and dimensioned to be received in the bore of the knob.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Amended) The retractor of claim 1, wherein the coupling element comprises a shaft.
5. (Original) The retractor of claim 4, wherein the shaft and the bore comprise mating threads for releasably advancing the shaft within the bore.
6. (Original) The retractor of claim 5, wherein the handle comprises an opening, and the opening is configured and dimensioned to receive the knob.
7. (Amended) The retractor of claim 1, wherein the blade member comprises an aperture adjacent the distal end of the blade configured and dimensioned to allow a surgical tool to pass through the aperture.
8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The retractor of claim 7, wherein the aperture is configured and dimensioned to allow an orthopedic implant to pass through the aperture.
10. (Original) The retractor of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the blade member comprises a structure for stabilizing the retractor blade against bone.
11. (Original) The retractor of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the blade member comprises a hook-shape.
12. (Original) The retractor of claim 11, wherein the hook-shape comprises a "C"-shape.
13. (Original) The retractor of claim 11, wherein the hook-shape comprises a "L"-shape.
14. (Original) The retractor of claim 1, further comprising a second coupling mechanism located on the handle for coupling a second surgical instrument to the handle.
15. (Original) The retractor of claim 14, wherein the second surgical instrument comprises an endoscope.
16. (Original) The retractor of claim 15, wherein the endoscope is positioned to provide a view of the distal end of the retractor blade.
17. (Original) The retractor of claim 15, further comprising an endoscope secured to the handle.
18. (Canceled)
19. (Original) The retractor of claim 1, further comprising a second coupling mechanism, and the second coupling mechanism comprises a coupling member.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Amended) The retractor of claim 19, wherein the coupling member is telescopically received within the handle.
22. (Canceled)

23. (Amended) The retractor of claim 19, wherein the coupling member contacts a second member.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Amended) The retractor of claim 23, wherein the coupling member and the second member are operatively associated to fix a second surgical instrument with respect to the handle.
26. (Original) The retractor of claim 25, wherein the coupling member comprises a recess adapted to receive a portion of the second surgical instrument.
27. (Original) The retractor of claim 26, wherein the recess has an inner surface, and the inner surface is adapted to clamp the portion of the second surgical instrument to the second member.
28. (Original) The retractor of claim 1, further comprising another surgical instrument having a coupling element configured and dimensioned to connect with the first coupling mechanism.
29. (Original) The retractor of claim 28, wherein the other surgical instrument comprises a retractor blade.
30. (Original) The retractor of claim 1, further comprising a second handle transverse to the longitudinal axis.
31. (Currently Amended) A method for treating bone comprising:
providing a surgical retractor comprising:
a handle having a longitudinal axis and proximal and distal ends;
a first coupling mechanism adjacent the proximal end of the handle, wherein the first coupling mechanism comprises a ~~rotatable~~ knob having a bore, the knob being rotatable with respect to the handle; and

a blade member having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the blade member comprises a coupling element, and the coupling element is configured and dimensioned to be received in the bore of the knob;
positioning an endoscope with respect to the blade member for viewing a surgical site;
making an incision in soft tissue and elevating the soft tissue fascia off a bone segment proximate the surgical site;

passing a portion of the blade member through the incision;
retracting the fascia off the bone segment with the blade member to form a cavity;
circumventing at least in part a bone segment with a portion of the blade member;
stabilizing the blade member on the bone segment;
viewing the bone segment through the endoscope; and
performing a surgical procedure proximate the bone segment.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising securing the endoscope with respect to the blade member.

33. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein performing the surgical procedure comprises passing an orthopedic implant through the cavity.

34. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising performing a part of the surgical procedure through an aperture of the blade member.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein performing the surgical procedure comprises passing a surgical tool through an aperture of the blade member.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the tool comprises at least one of the group consisting of a drill, a burr, a syringe and a cannula.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)
39. (Canceled)
40. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein performing the surgical procedure comprises passing an orthopedic implant through the aperture.
41. (Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein the implant comprises at least one of the group consisting of a bone fastener, a screw and a bone void filler material.
42. (Canceled)
43. (Canceled)
44. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein performing the surgical procedure comprises securing an orthopedic implant to the bone segment.
45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein performing the surgical procedure comprises fixating a fracture proximate the bone segment.
46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the bone segment comprises a condylar neck.
47. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein performing the surgical procedure comprises performing an orthognathic procedure.
48. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein performing the surgical procedure comprises a condylar grafting procedure.
49. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the bone segment comprises a ramus.
50. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the bone segment comprises a condylar neck.
51. (Canceled)
52. (Currently Amended) A surgical retractor comprising:

a handle having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, a distal end and an opening;

a first coupling mechanism adjacent the proximal end of the handle, wherein the first coupling mechanism is rotatable with respect to the handle;

a second coupling mechanism proximate the proximal end of the handle having a through-hole and at least a portion which is axially moveable within the opening of the handle, wherein the through-hole of the second coupling mechanism is sized and configured to receive a surgical instrument; and

a blade member having a proximal end and a distal end,

wherein the blade member comprises a coupling element proximate the proximal end of the blade member, and the coupling element is configured and dimensioned to connect with the first coupling mechanism.

53. (Previously Presented) The retractor of claim 52, wherein the surgical instrument is an endoscope.

53. (Previously Presented) The retractor of claim 52, wherein the second coupling mechanism comprises a clamping member telescopically received within the handle.

54. (Previously Presented) The retractor of claim 53, wherein the clamping member is not in contact with the handle.

55. (Previously Presented) The retractor of claim 54, wherein the clamping member contacts a second member.

56. (Previously Presented) The retractor of claim 55, wherein the second member contacts the handle.

57. (Previously Presented) The retractor of claim 55, wherein the clamping member and the second member are operatively associated with each other to fix the surgical instrument with respect to the handle.

58. (Previously Presented) The retractor of claim 57, wherein the clamping member comprises a recess adapted to receive a portion of the surgical instrument, the recess having an inner surface adapted to clamp at least a portion of the surgical instrument to the second member.